



**BOROUGH OF GREAT TORRINGTON**


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**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
and the  
Borough Surveyor and  
Public Health Inspector

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For the year ending  
31st December, 1971



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# **Public Health Staff**

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## **MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:**

C. F. R. BRIGGS, M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.  
Gresham, Rack Park Close, Torrington  
Telephone 3222

## **BOROUGH SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:**

P. F. R. E. SYMONS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.  
Council Offices, 6 Halsdon Terrace, Torrington  
Telephone 2441 or 2442

## **HOUSING OFFICER AND ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:**

P. McCANDLISH, D.M.A., M.A.P.H.I.

## **BUILDING SURVEYOR AND CLERK OF WORKS:**

S. WOOD, A.I.C.W.

## **COMMITTEES:**

HOUSING, SANITARY, BUILDING and  
IMPROVEMENTS, SPECIAL SEWERAGE

Council Offices  
6 Halsdon Terrace  
Great Torrington

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

We have pleasure in presenting our report for the year ending 31st December, 1971.

The year was a very healthy one. There was no major epidemic.

The corrected birth rate was 16.9 per 1,000 population: that for the whole of England and Wales was 16.0.

The corrected death rate was 9.6 per 1,000 population: the figure for the whole of England and Wales was 11.6.

We are,

Yours faithfully,

**C. F. R. BRIGGS,**  
Medical Officer of Health.

**P. F. R. E. SYMONS,**  
Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

# Borough of Great Torrington

## 1971

### INDUSTRIES AND OCCUPATIONS

Abattoir	Agriculture	Agricultural Engineering
Cattle Breeding Centre	Children's Clothing	
Electrical Components	Glassware	Glove Making
Milk Processing	Plasticware	

### GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (statute acres)	....	....	....	....	3,592
Mid-year Population (official estimate)	....	....	....	....	3,440
Number of Inhabited Houses	....	....	....	....	1,285
(Number of Council-owned Houses)	....	....	....	....	375
Rateable Value	....	....	....	....	£123,247
Product of Penny Rate	....	....	....	....	£1,244

### VITAL STATISTICS

Year	Mid-year Population	Corrected Birth Rate	Corrected Death Rate
1971	3,400	16.9	9.6
1970	3,200	15.9	10.9
1969	3,080	20.5	10.7
1968	3,010	19.4	9.1
1967	2,920	19.5	9.8



# VITAL

		GREAT TORRINGTON			England and Wales (Total)
		Males	Females	Total	
Estimated mid-year home population		—	—	3,440	48,815,000
Live births	Total	25	24	49	783,165
	Legitimate	23	21	44	717,491
	Illegitimate	2	3	5	65,674
Stillbirths	Total	1	—	1	9,898
	Legitimate	1	—	1	8,826
	Illegitimate	—	—	—	1,072
Total live and still births	Total	26	24	50	793,063
	Legitimate	24	21	45	726,317
	Illegitimate	2	3	5	66,746
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age					
	Total	1	—	1	13,726
	Legitimate	—	—	—	12,140
	Illegitimate	1	—	1	1,586
under 4 weeks of age					
	Total	1	—	1	9,113
	Legitimate	—	—	—	8,121
	Illegitimate	1	—	1	992
under 1 week of age					
	Total	1	—	1	7,750
	Legitimate	—	—	—	6,903
	Illegitimate	1	—	1	847
Deaths—all ages		20	35	55	567,345

STATISTICS

	Great Torrington	England and Wales
	—	—
Live birth rates, etc. Livebirths per 1,000 home population (crude rate) Area comparability factor Local adjusted rate Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate Illegitimate live births as percentage of all live births	14.2 1.19 16.9 1.06 10	16.0 1.00 16.0 1.00 8
Stillbirth rate Stillbirths per 1,000 total live and still births	20	12
Infant mortality rates Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate live births Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate live births	20 — 200	18 17 24
Neonatal mortality rate Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births	20	12
Early neonatal mortality rate Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births Perinatal mortality rate Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 total live and still births	20 40	10 22
Deaths rates, etc.—all ages Deaths per 1,000 home population (crude rate) Area comparability factor Local adjusted rate Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate	16.0 .60 9.6 .83	11.6 1.00 11.6 1.00

# NUMBERS OF DEATHS BY CAUSE

Cause of Death						Sex	All Ages
B19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	....	....	....		M	—
						F	1
B19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	....	....	....		M	1
						F	1
B19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	....	....			M	3
						F	—
B19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	....	....	....		M	—
						F	3
B21	Diabetes Mellitus	....	....	....	....	M	—
						F	2
B46(5)	Other Diseases of Nervous System		....	....		M	—
						F	1
B27	Hypertensive Disease	....	....	....	....	M	1
						F	2
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	....	....	....	....	M	5
						F	7
B29	Other Forms of Heart Disease	....	....	....		M	1
						F	3
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	....	....	....	....	M	4
						F	10
B46(6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	....	....			M	1
						F	—
B32	Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	M	2
						F	3
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema....	....	....	....		M	1
						F	—
B38	Nephritis and Nephrosis	....	....	....	....	M	—
						F	1
B46(10)	Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue	....	....			M	—
						F	1
B42	Congenital Anomalies	....	....	....	....	M	1
						F	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES						M	20
						F	35

Average age at death

It is disturbing to note that in the past 10 years there has been a total of 23 deaths from cancer of the lung. Cancer of the lung is closely



IN SEX AND AGE GROUPS

Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 1 Year	Age in Years								75 and Over
		1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	3
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	8
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	3	11
—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	6	7	20

Male 69 years  
Female 74 years

associated with heavy cigarette-smoking, and it is felt that some of these 23 deaths need not have occurred.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There was no major epidemic of infectious disease during the year. The following cases of infectious disease were notified:

Scarlet fever	....	....	....	....	12
Measles	....	....	....	....	9
Infective jaundice	....	....	....	....	2
Whooping cough	....	....	....	....	1

Immunisation is offered to all children, as a routine, against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis and measles. Immunisation against rubella is offered to all girls between their 11th and 14th birthdays. Immunisation against certain other diseases is available on request.

### Tuberculosis

No new cases were notified during the year. There were no deaths from tuberculosis. The following cases were on the register at the end of the year:

				Male	Female
Pulmonary	....	....	....	2	2
Non-pulmonary	....	....	....	—	2

Immunisation against tuberculosis, with B.C.G. vaccine, is offered, where appropriate, to secondary school children.

A unit of the Mass Radiography Service visits Bideford and Barnstaple (and other towns in the area) at fortnightly intervals, and members of the general public are free to attend. Not since 1964 has the unit visited Torrington; but the Council has been campaigning for regular visits to be resumed.

### Venereal Disease

The venereal disease clinic is held in Barnstaple. We have had no problems.



## NURSING and GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

At the Health Centre, apart from doctors' surgeries, there are clinics for child health, antenatal care, ophthalmology, chiropody, speech therapy and family planning. There is also a retirement clinic, and all people in the 65-70 age-group have received individual invitations to attend. There is close co-operation of the County Health Department's services with the family doctor services, including attachment of the Health Department's District Nurse/Midwives to individual doctors' practices. The District Nurses have full equipment for home nursing and for midwifery; but most of our mothers prefer to have their babies in Hospital, and there were only three home confinements during the year.

### MEALS ON WHEELS

The meals are prepared at Torridge View Welfare Home (who also prepare meals-on-wheels for some country people). About 12-15 elderly folk are served in their homes, twice weekly, with a midday meal. A small charge is made.

### AMBULANCE SERVICE

The ambulance is now based at the Health Centre. It is connected by two-way radio with Ambulance Control in Barnstaple. Oxygen is always carried on the ambulance.

	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967
Patients carried during the year ....	811	1,049	843	842	806
Total mileage ....	17,120	16,933	16,211	19,054	17,947

### TORRINGTON COTTAGE HOSPITAL

The following table gives an idea of the work done in the past five years:

	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967
Patients admitted during the year	211	234	243	236	216
New out-patients....	698	523	386	469	355
Total out-patient attendances ....	1,960	1,291	923	893	891

### NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

The National Blood Transfusion Service visited Torrington twice during the year. A total of 254 people gave blood—139 men and 115 women.

	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967
Total donations ....	254	231	193	181	167

## **FACTORIES ACT, 1961. Part I of the Act.**

**INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)**

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .... Non-Power	3	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.... .... Power	19	7	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) .... .... Building sites, etc.	2	2	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> .... ....	24	11	NIL	NIL

### **2—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND**

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector By H.M. Inspector	





## RAINFALL

Details of rainfall during recent years are as follows:

		1971	1970	1969	1968
January	....	7.40	5.93	5.38	3.84
February	....	1.87	5.53	3.13	1.62
March	....	2.93	2.65	3.22	2.99
April	....	2.03	2.76	2.25	2.45
May	....	1.68	1.42	4.90	2.34
June	....	4.82	2.45	1.76	5.37
July	....	2.26	3.35	4.03	4.02
August	....	3.82	3.92	2.60	1.46
September	....	1.01	2.81	2.95	6.74
October....	....	4.53	3.06	0.41	3.76
November	....	6.11	7.19	6.28	2.22
December	....	2.30	2.61	4.23	4.62
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	....	40.76	43.68	41.14	41.43
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The total rainfall for the year gave an average figure but the 7.40 inches in January was the second highest figure for that month since our records began in 1900.

The June total was quite high but it was exceeded in 1912, 1917 and 1968. June 1912 holds the record with a total of 6.73 inches.

Rainfall is recorded at the sewage disposal works by Mr. C. Bangham.

## **SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL**

No major works or alterations have been carried out during the year but plans and specifications were completed and tenders received for the sewerage scheme to serve the proposed residential area on the south-east side of the town. Work on the laying of the new sewer started in the first week of January 1972.

## **WATER SUPPLY**

Water supply to the Borough is generally very good both in quantity and quality. The water is not plumbo-solvent and contains neither fluorine nor any deleterious substances.

31 samples were taken during the year and all gave first class results.

It is good to know that work on the Meldon dam is proceeding satisfactorily and that water from this source will be available to augment supplies during the coming year.

## **PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949**

The Borough Council continue to employ a rodent operator on a part-time basis. He is a man of many years' experience and the few minor infestations which are found are dealt with speedily and efficiently.

## HOUSING

No houses were completed but at the end of the year nineteen were under construction and the first of these will be occupied in March 1972.

The Council continue to encourage owners to improve existing houses with the help of improvement grants and the Government decision to increase grants from 50 per cent to 75 per cent in development areas has helped to give further impetus to the number of enquiries and applications.



# INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

## Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed	22,871	11,411	418	175,605	79,712
Number Inspected	22,871	11,411	418	175,605	79,712
<b>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned	24	122	82	551	167
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	12,947	10,483	19	27,945	37,364
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis	56.71	92.94	24.16	16.23	47.08
<b>Tuberculosis</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	495
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	0.62
<b>Cysticercosis</b>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion	6	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

## MEAT INSPECTION

All food animals slaughtered in the district during the year were inspected by the meat inspection staff.

Throughput at the large private abattoir continued to increase. Numbers of all types of animals have risen, with an overall increase of approximately 20 per cent, but the most marked increase has been in the number of cows: more than double the throughput of 1970.

An additional Meat Inspector commenced duty on the 1st December.

The total weight of meat condemned during the year is given in the table below. Condemnations of Calves is quite high, some 19 per cent, but this is generally due to immaturity. The figure for Cows is just over 1 per cent, or ten in every thousand. For Other Cattle the figures represent only eleven in every ten thousand, for Sheep thirty-one in ten thousand and Pigs twenty in ten thousand. Seen in this light it can be appreciated that the quality of animals slaughtered is very high.

DESCRIPTION	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Carcase Meat (Including the Whole Carcases of 122 Cows, 24 Other Cattle, 82 Calves, 551 Sheep and 167 Pigs)	60	0	3	12
OFFAL	220	13	1	23

## CONDEMNED FOODSTUFFS

55 packets of various sizes of Fish, Meat, Vegetables, etc., were condemned due to a breakdown in a refrigeration plant.

Other than the above only three condemnations were made viz: 9 lbs. Shoulder of Pork because of decomposition; 5 pints of Malt Vinegar which was tainted with paraffin and 34 lbs. of Chuck Steak which contained an abscess.

THE OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Appendix I—Prescribed Statistical Information  
TABLE A—REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises (1)	Number of premises regis- tered during the year (2)	Total number of registered pre- mises at end of year (3)	Number of registered pre- mises receiving a general inspection dur- ing the year (4)
Offices	—	9	2
Retail Shops	1	25	6
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	—	—	—
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	1	3	3
Fuel Storage Depots	—	—	—
TOTALS	2	37	11

TABLE B—NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY INSPECTORS TO  
REGISTERED PREMISES

17
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TABLE C—ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED  
PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

Class of Workplace (1)	Number of Persons Employed (2)
Offices	44
Retail Shops	82
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	—
Catering Establishments open to the public	17
Canteens	—
Fuel Storage Depots	—
TOTAL	143
TOTAL MALES	74
TOTAL FEMALES	69



# SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Allotments and Fields	....	....	....	....	....	41
Building Regulations and Planning Matters	....	....				128
Caravan Sites	....	....	....	....	....	3
Cattle and Pannier Markets	....	....	....	....		36
Cemetery and Churchyard	....	....	....	....	....	61
Disinfection & Disinfestation	....	....	....	....		4
Drain Testing and Inspecting	....	....	....	....		29
Factories Act Inspections	....	....	....	....	....	11
Food Premises and Food Inspection	....	....	....	....		19
Housing	....	....	....	....	....	889
Improvement Grants	....	....	....	....	....	151
Industrial Development	....	....	....	....	....	31
Meat Inspection	....	....	....	....	....	40
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	....	54
New Building Work	....	....	....	....	....	74
Nuisances (including obstructed drains)	....	....	....	....		29
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act	....	....	....	....		17
Petroleum, Licensing and Storage	....	....	....	....		3
Playing Field, Bowling Green, etc.	....	....	....	....		55
Public Conveniences	....	....	....	....	....	27
Refuse Collection and Disposal	....	....	....	....		25
Rodent Control	....	....	....	....	....	3
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	....	....	....	....		129
Street Lighting	....	....	....	....	....	15
Water	....	....	....	....	....	11
Total						<u>1,885</u>









